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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/046,346 (Confirmation No. 2872)
Applicants : Sumakeris *et al.*
Filed : October 26, 2001
Art Unit : 2832
Examiner : Gene M. Munson
Docket No. : 5000.221 Date: May 12, 2004
Customer No. : 21176

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

OFFICIAL

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This responds to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2003 (Paper No. 13). The undersigned attorney appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and responds hereto to the issues presented. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 11 of this paper.

An Appendix including a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is attached following page 12 of this paper.